

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace the previous version, and the listing of claims:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A buckle comprising:

a female member made of resin, and having a first attaching portion to be attached to one member, and a first engaging portion, and

a male member made of resin, and having a second attaching portion to be attached to another member, and a second engaging portion for engaging the first engaging portion so that the male member is connected to the female member, one of the female member and the male member being entirely formed of the resin with hardness lower than that of the other of the female member and the male member so that said second engaging portion being is released from the first engaging portion when one of the male member and the female member is pulled away from the other of the male member and the female member with a force greater than a predetermined level, one of a portion with the first engaging portion and a portion with the second engaging portion being formed of resin with hardness lower than that of the other of the portions.

2. (currently amended) A buckle according to claim 1 comprising:

a female member having a first attaching portion to be attached to one member, and a first engaging portion, and

a male member having a second attaching portion to be attached to another member, and a second engaging portion for engaging the first engaging portion so that the male member is connected to the female member, said second engaging portion being released from the first engaging portion when one of the male member and the female member is pulled away from the other of the male member and the

female member with a force greater than a predetermined level, one of a portion with the first engaging portion and a portion with the second engaging portion being formed of resin with hardness lower than that of the other of the portions,

wherein said female member and said male member including the first and second engaging portions are entirely formed of the same materials, respectively.

3. (currently amended) A buckle ~~according to claim 1 comprising:~~

a female member having a first attaching portion to be attached to one member, and a first engaging portion, and

a male member having a second attaching portion to be attached to another member, and a second engaging portion for engaging the first engaging portion so that the male member is connected to the female member, said second engaging portion being released from the first engaging portion when one of the male member and the female member is pulled away from the other of the male member and the female member with a force greater than a predetermined level, one of a portion with the first engaging portion and a portion with the second engaging portion being formed of resin with hardness lower than that of the other of the portions,

wherein said female member includes an inner space for receiving the male member, an upper wall having a first slit with a substantially U-shape, and an engagement releasing operation portion defined by the first slit, said first engaging portion being formed at an intermediate portion of the first slit; and said male member includes an insertion portion to be inserted into the inner space, said insertion portion having a second slit and the second engaging portion defined by the second slit.

4. (original) A buckle according to claim 3, wherein said insertion portion further includes a long groove extending from a forward end

toward a rear side thereof, and said female member further includes a guiding projection formed on a lower wall thereof to be placed in the long groove upon inserting the insertion portion into the inner space so that the male member is centered in the female member.

5. (currently amended) A buckle according to claim 3, wherein said second slit of the insertion portion has a U-shape with a middle portion so that the second engaging portion is formed inside the second slit to face the middle portion, and has a tapered portion with a height gradually decreasing from the middle portion.

6. (currently amended) A buckle according to claim 5, wherein said second engaging portion is disposed in the intermediate portion of the first slit of the female member when the first and second engaging portions are engaged.

7. (original) A buckle as claimed in claim 1, wherein said resin is a thermoplastic elastomer.